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## STATISTICS OF VACCINATION.

*Neue Beiträge zur Frage des Impfschutzes.* Zweite Beobachtungsreihe, 1887-88. Von Josef Körösi, Director des Budapester Communal-statistischen Bureaus. Berlin, 1891.

Josef Körösi has undoubtedly contributed more to the statistical study of vaccination than anyone now living. Many years ago a French artillery officer, Carnot, proposed in opposition to vaccination the theory that by preventing small-pox vaccination had increased other diseases. He even went so far as to say that it interfered with the birth rate, and that the depopulation of France was due to vaccination. John Simon made the significant comment upon this pseudo-theory that "*Post ergo propter* was never more whimsically illustrated. For the argument goes simply to claim as the *effect* of vaccination whatever evils have occurred since its recovery: and M. Carnot's moderation may be praised that, with the infinite resources of this proof, he did not convict Jenner of causing last year's inundation of the Rhone." Singularly enough, the same line of argument is being employed by the opponents of vaccination at the present day.

The very full statistical tables in this pamphlet are a continuation of the similar series which the author presented to the International Medical Congress at Washington in 1887, and they differ from all other observations in this, that, in the case of all persons admitted to hospitals, all persons who died in hospitals, and all persons who died in Budapest and the provinces of Hungary, observations were made as to their condition with reference to vaccination. The statistics of his former pamphlet, with reference to 1886, are also included in this summary. These make in all observations on 53,320 patients admitted to hospitals for ailments of all sorts, 5818 deaths in the same hospitals from all causes, and 58,639 deaths in Budapest and the Hungarian provinces from all causes.

The author makes the same sharp distinction as before between the terms *morbidity*, *i. e.*, the ratio of the sick to the living, *mortality*, the ratio of the dead to the living, and *lethality*, the ratio of the dead to the sick.

In his concluding chapter, entitled *Bilanz der Impfung* (the balance which should be credited to vaccination), he terms the advantage

gained by the introduction of vaccination a *colossal* protection, and if by any possible argument the small percentage of increase from scrofula, erysipelas, and skin diseases could be attributed to vaccination, the loss is outweighed more than three hundred-fold by the saving in the mortality from small-pox.

The British Parliamentary Commission will find in this pamphlet much food for reflection.

S. W. A.

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#### THE SEMI-ANNUAL CENSUS OF CRIMINALS IN MINNESOTA.

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In Minnesota, under the direction of the Board of Corrections and Charities, of which Rev. H. H. Hart is secretary, a semi-annual prison census is taken, entirely different, it is believed, from any other prison enumeration in the country. An enumeration of all prisoners is made twice each year, in mid-summer and in mid-winter. No serious difficulties are met, and the results are regarded as satisfactory. The eighth of these censuses was taken December 31, 1891. A synopsis of the returns is published in order to show the method and the nature of the results. The total number of prisoners was 962, of whom 838 were serving sentence and 124 were awaiting trial. The number of prisoners awaiting trial is 50 less than the number December 31, 1890, and is the smallest number ever reported.

Of the 838 prisoners serving sentence 467 are state convicts and 371 are petty convicts, serving sentence in jails or workhouses. The number of state convicts is one less than a year ago, and only 25 more than the number at the close of 1885, so that the increase of state-prison convicts in the past six years has been less than 6 per cent.

The number of petty convicts is 80 more than it was a year ago, but most of this increase is found in the Minneapolis city workhouse, whose inmates have increased from 96 December 31, 1890, to 157 December 31, 1891. The number of inmates in the St. Paul city workhouse decreased from 194 December 31, 1889, to 118 December 31, 1891.

The total number of prisoners of all kinds in the state has increased 15 per cent in the past six years, and has decreased 6 per cent in the past two years. The prison census is shown in the following table : —